Project by the Central Government, Indian or foreign financial institutions or banks for how many schemes the same was provided and how much amount has been spent out of the said assistance and on which items;

(b) whether any statistical report has been received in this regard; and

(c) whether the tiger 'Bhambhu Ram" seen by the form U.S. President Shri Bill Clinton, has been killed and its skin is also included among the skins of wild animals seized by Delhi Police recently?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) and (b) the details of Central assistance provided to Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve during the last three year by the various agencies and the expenditure are as below:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

		1999-2000		2000-01		2001 -02	
SI. N		Allocation	Expen-diture	Allocation	Expen-diture	Allocation	Expen-diture
1.	Centrally Sponsored Project Tiger	110.655	73.535	122.325	107.90	103.608	116.076
2.	India Eco-development (Externally Aided	150.00	255.82	531.28	437.773	227.50	329.29

In addition, the State Government has received an amount, of Rs. 4.00 lakhs during 2000-01 under the Forestry Project funded by Japan, out of which Rs. 2.24 lakhs was utilised.

(c) Government of Rajasthan has reported that in all probabilities the tiger "Bhambhu Ram" is still there in Ranthambhore National Park.

Protection of forests in Gujarat

1821. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to protect the forest land in Gujarat, specially Gir forest;

(b) whether the loss reduction in wildlife has been reported due to diversion of forest land; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Substantial part of Gir forest is notified as national park and sanctuary. Central Government provides financial assistance for management of the area on scientific lines and to control poaching of wild animals under the scheme "Development of national parks and sanctuaries".These efforts have improved the population status of.various species of wild animals including that of lion, the population of lions has increased from 304 lions in 1995 to 327 lions in May, 2001.

Funds for maintenance of lakes and rivers

1822. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provided funds for maintenance and beautification of various lakes and rivers including Majuli Island in Assam during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made in this regard during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The State Government of Assam has not submitted any proposal for maintenance and beautification of any lake or river for consideration under the ongoing programmes of National Lake Conservation Plan or National River Conservation Plan. A preparatory grant of US $ 20,000 has been approved by United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in October, 2001 for declaration of Majuli Islands as Cultural Landscape Site. Department of Culture, Ministry of Tourism, is preparing detailed dossier in this regard.

Status of endangered species

1823. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had directed the Zoological Survey of India during 1987 to conduct survey to find out the status of endangered species,